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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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⑤④ Use of 5-(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)methylamino-2-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-isopropylvaleronitrile.

⑤⑦ 5-((3,4-dimethoxyphenetyl)methylamino)-2-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-isopropylvaleronitrile or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is effective to prevent metastasis of cancer.

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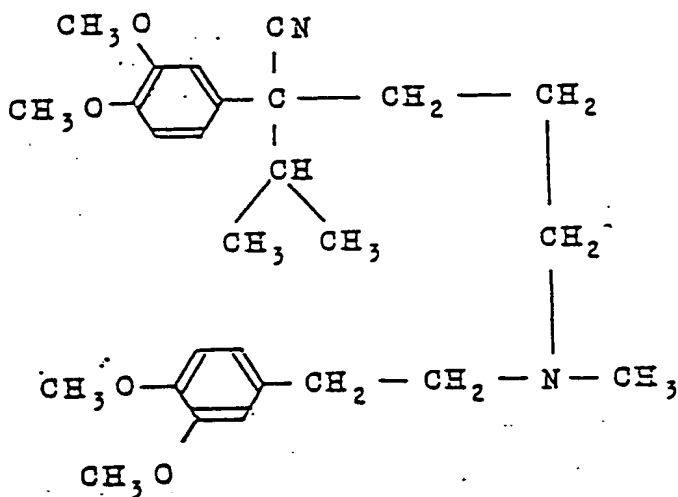
- 1 -

Use of 5-((3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)methylamino)-2-
(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-isopropylvaleronitrile

This invention relates to a novel agent for preventing metastasis of cancer, i.e. an anti-metastatic agent.

More particularly it relates to an anti-
5 metastatic agent comprising 5-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)methylamino]-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-isopropyl-

valeronitrile of the formula



or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

In the recent statistics of the survey, cancer has occupied the first place in death causes in Japan, instead of cerebrovascular diseases. 24% of deaths, i.e. one among four, died of cancer. This mortal disease causes indescribable pain not only to the body but to the mind of a patient. In addition, cancer would most frequently attack those in the prime of life (i.e. in forties to fifties) and playing important roles both in society and in their own homes so that their families also suffer from serious mental and economical damages.

Therefore various studies to reveal the fundamental cause of cancer and to establish epoch-making processes for the treatment and diagnosis thereof

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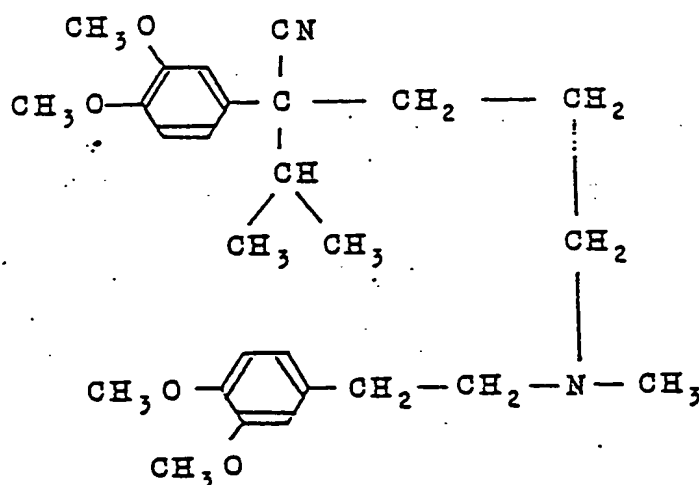
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In order to lower the mortality from cancer, it is a very important problem to prevent and treat the metastasis. Few antimetastatic agents, however, have been known to date.

5 Under these circumstances, we have tried to develop an agent for preventing metastasis of cancer, i.e. an antimetastatic agent, for a long time and found that verapamil, i.e. 5-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)methyl]-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-isopropylvaleronitrile of the following formula or its
10 salt such as hydrochloride would be unexpectedly effective as an antimetastatic agent.

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Accordingly it is an object of the present invention to provide a novel antimetastatic agent.

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Verapamil of the above formula has been used as a therapeutic agent for ischemic cardiac diseases

in treating, e.g., stenocardia, coronary arterio-sclerosis (chronic ischemic cardiac diseases), silent ischemic cardiac diseases and arteriosclerosis cardiac diseases), and myocardial infraction.

5 Verapamil hydrochloride has a melting point of 138.5 to 140.5°C (decomp.).

To further illustrate the present invention, the following examples will be given.

10 Example 1

Effect of verapamil on plumonary metastasis of B16 melanoma BL-6

15 B16 melanoma BL-6, isolated by Dr. Hart et al. in U.S.A., is a cell line which infiltrates through a bladder membrane and shows metastatic potential. 5×10^4 cells of B16 melanoma BL-6 were inoculated into the tail vein of a male C57BL/6J mouse. Verapamil hydrochloride was administered intraperitoneally once a day two
20 days before the inoculation of tumor cells and three days thereafter, that is, six times in total. On the 25th day of the transplantation, the mouse was anatomized to observe the metastasis to the lungs. The degree of the metastasis was evaluated by the number of plumonary
25 nodules. The evaluated values were represented by range, median and mean + DS. a mark "a" indicates that a significant difference has been observed when compared with a control, that is, p is smaller than 0.05 (Student's
30 t-test). Ten mice were used per a group. Table 1 shows results.

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Table 1

Dose of verapamil hydrochloride (mg/kg)	No. of pulmonary nodules					
	Median	Range	% to control	Mean \pm SD	% to control	Significant Difference
30	4.5	3~9	32	5.0 \pm 1.7	29	a
40	12	1~19	86	9.8 \pm 6.8	56	a
50	9.5	2~13	68	8.0 \pm 4.3	46	a
Control	14	4~33	100	17.5 \pm 9.3	100	

Example 2: Metastasis of B16 melanoma BL-6 to lungs
and lymphonodi

25 x 10⁴ cells of B16 melanoma BL-6 were trans-
planted to the right forefoot of a C57BL/6J male
5 mouse. Cancerous cells would spantaneously metas-
tasize to the right nodi lymphatic axillares and
lungs with the elapse of time. Verapamil hydro-
chloride was intraperitoneally administered once a
day from the fifth to 16th day (i.e. 11 times) after
10 the transplantation of the cancerous cells. On the
17th day of the transplantation, the right forefoot
including the primary tumor was cut off. On the
38th day the mouse was anatomized to determine the
number of plumonary nodules.

15 Table 2 shows the result.

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Table 2

Dose of verapamil hydrochloride (mg/kg)	No. of pulmonary nodules					
	Median	Range	% to control	Mean \pm SD	% to control	Significant Difference
30	11	3~21	147	12.3 \pm 6.5	75	
40	5	1~12 ^a	67	5.8 \pm 3.7	35	
50	1.5	0~12	20	3.5 \pm 4.3	21	a
Control	7.5	1~42	100	16.5 \pm 17.1	100	

Example 3

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Effect of verapamil on plumonary metastasis
of highly metastatic clone NL-17 of mouse colonic
cancer colon 26 adenocarcinome

5 5×10^4 cells of a highly metastatic cell
strain clone NL-17 were transplanted into a vein of
a BALB/C femal mouse. Verapamil hydrochloride was
administered intraperitoneally to the mouse once
a day two days before the inoculation of tumor cells and three
10 days thereafter, i.e. six times in total. On the
23th day of inoculation, the mouse was anatomized
to determine the number of metastatic pulmonary
nodules. Results are shown in Table 3.

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Table 3

Dose of verapamil hydrochloride (mg/kg)	No. of pulmonary nodules					
	Median	Range	% to control	Mean \pm SD	% to control	Significant Difference
60	1	0~96	2.1	13.1 \pm 31.3	15.6	a
75	1.5	0~67	3.2	18.6 \pm 24.5	22.1	a
Control	47.5	5~>200	100	84 \pm 71.3	100	

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Example 4

Effect of verapamil on plumonary metastasis
of highly metastatic clone NL-22 of mouse colonic
cancer colon 26 adnecarcinome

5 1×10^6 cells of a highly metastatic cell
strain NL-22 of mouse colonic cancer colon 26 were
transplanted into the right forefoot of a BALB/C
female mouse. Cancerous cells would spontaneously
metastasize to the lungs with the elapse of time.
10 Verapamil hydrochloride was intraperitoneally
administered to the mouse once a day from the sixth
to 12th day of the transplantation, i.e. six times
in total. On the 13th day of the transplantation,
the right forefoot including the primary carcinoma
15 was cut off. On the 29th day, the mouse was anato-
mized to determine the number of plumonary nodules.

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Table 4

Dose of verapamil hydrochloride (mg/kg)	No. of pulmonary nodules					
	Median	Range	% to control	Mean \pm SD	% to control	Significant Difference
50	34.5	12~55	91	33.1 \pm 14.6	59	
60	22.5	10~41	59	23.5 \pm 8.5	42	a
75	19	7~74	50	27.8 \pm 21.8	50	a
Control	38	22~126	100	55.9 \pm 31.8	100	

Examples 1 to 4 as shown above clearly indicate that the verapamil hydrochloride according to the present invention remarkably prevents metastasis of cancer not only in a single experimental system but
5 also in various experimental systems for cancer metastasis in animals.

Accordingly the verapamil according to the present invention is useful as an excellent agent for preventing metastasis of cancer, i.e. an anti-
10 metastatic agent.

The dose of the verapamil of the present invention as an antimetastatic agent depends on various factors such as the type of cancer and the condition of the patient. It may be usually administered to
15 an adult orally or parenterally in a dose of 10 to 500 mg once to four times a day without any limitation.

It may be formulated into various forms such as powder, grain, granule, tablet, capsule and
20 injection. Formulation may be carried out in a conventional manner with the use of conventional carriers.

In addition to the use as a therapeutic agent administered to cancerous patients, the verapamil
25 of the present invention is further available in

preventing metastasis in those who have received medical treatments such as chemotherapy, endocrinotherapy and immunotherapy, radiotherapy or surgical treatments.

5 Needless to say, the agent of the present invention may be simultaneously administered with other carcinostatic agents.

Toxicity of the verapamil hydrochloride as used in the present invention will now be shown.

10 Acute toxicity

Table 5 shows LD₅₀ (mg/kg) thereof.

Table 5

Animal	Sex	Oral	Subcutaneous	Intramuscular	Intravenous
Mouse	Male	163	68	-	7.6
Rat	Male	108	107	118	16
	Female	126	-	-	-
Dog	Male and female	>400	-	25	-

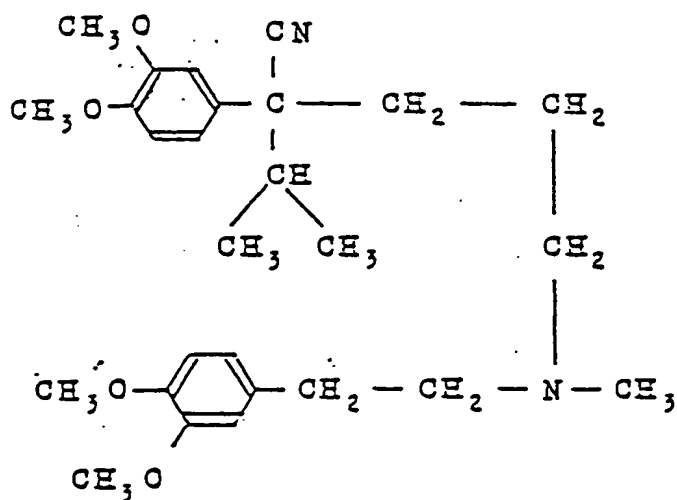
20 As described above in detail, the verapamil of the present invention is remarkably effective as an antimetastatic agent. Since metastasis is the cause of deaths due to cancer in most cases, the present invention is extremely valuable.

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CLAIM:

Use of 5-((3,4-dimethoxyphenetyl)methylamino)-
 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-
 isopropylvaleronitrile of the formula given
 below or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
 5 thereof for the preparing of a composition for pre-
 vention of metastasis of cancer.

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Application number

EP 85 10 4787

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
E	EP-A-0 123 850 (THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY) * Claims 1,7; page 1, line 12 - page 9, line 32 * -----	1	A 61 K 31/275
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 61 K 31/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 01-07-1985	Examiner THEUNS H.G.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	